

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01476 250915Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 250700Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6499

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

S E C R E T JIDDA 1476

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SAUDI MISSION TO SYRIA

REF JIDDA 1182

1. SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT (MARCH 23) THAT HE WOULD GO THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO DAMASCUS FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA. THE MAIN TOPIC WILL BE THE STRAINS DEVELOPING IN THE ARAB CAMP. HE SAID HE AND KING FAISAL WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY GROWING COOLNESS BETWEEN EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS. ARAB UNITY WAS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE, HE SAID, AND IT IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO PRESERVE. HOWEVER, ALL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO KEEP THE ARABS TOGETHER.

2. COMMENT: OMAR SAQQAF IS CLEARLY BIASED TOWARD THE SYRIANS. ALTHOUGH HE SAYS THAT THE ARABS, WITHOUT EGYPT, CAN DO NOTHING, HE ALSO MAKES FREQUENT DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT EGYPTIANS' ABILITY, COURAGE AND RESOLUTION. AND HE CLEARLY SUSPECTS THAT EGYPT, IN SPITE OF MANY PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, MIGHT BE LED INTO A SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL. HE HAS SAID

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CATEGORICALLY THAT THE MINUTE THAT HAPPENS, ALL

SAUDI ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION WITH EGYPT ENDS.

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Message Attributes

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